On a new termitophilous genus of the family Histeridæ.[1]

By

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With one plate.

Eucurtia n. g.

A little allied to the two peculiar genera *Chlamydopsis* WESTW. and *Orectochilus* LEW. but quite different and distinct in many respects.

The body is short and broad, shining. The head, viewed from above is not visible at all; it fits perfectly into the cavity of the prothorax as well as the 9-jointed antennæ; the basal joint of these is very big and dilatated, the club elongated, one-jointed; the border of the fossa of the antennæ visible from above, carrying a distinct pencil of yellow hairs. The scutellum very small. The elytra of a very peculiar and characteristic shape; the humeral corner strongly produced to a horn and carrying at the top a long pencil of hairs, the central portion strongly impressed, the lateral parts behind the humeral tube on each side projecting forwards in shape of a very big tube with a thick and long pencil of hairs at the tip. Legs not received into cavities, very flat and laterally compressed. Tarsi received into cavities on the tibiæ. The mouthparts are very little visible and seem to be hidden by the protruding labrum; not even the mandibles are to be seen. (They will be dissected and completely described later on.)

[1] The animal will be more completely described in the report of the scientific results of the Swedish Expedition to Australia 1910—1911.

Eucurtia paradoxa n. sp.

(Plate I.)

The upper surface shining, reddish castaneous, punctureless, the disc of the pronotum, the propygidium, the pygidium and the sternum a little darker. The basal joint of the antennæ big and strongly dilatated, totally received into

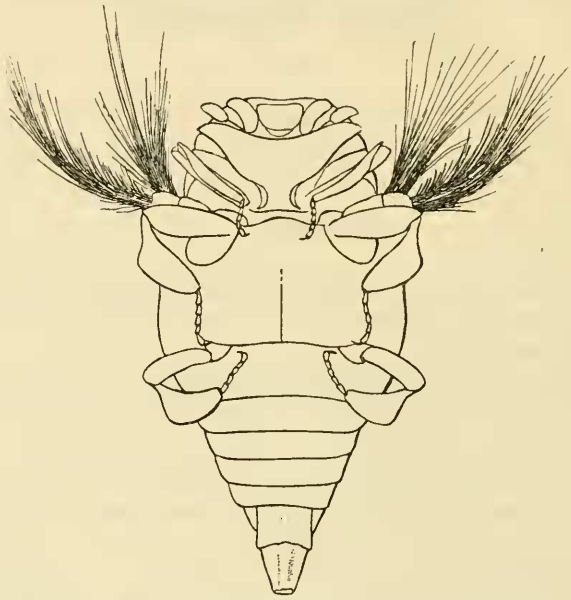

Fig. 1. *Eucurtia paradoxa* Mjöb. n. sp. Ventral view.

cavities on the prothorax, the front vertical, with rugulous sculpture and many small groupes of short erect setæ. The prothorax short and broad, the lateral margin distinctly upturned, boarded by yellow hairs, near the hind angles tree or four small pencils of yellow setæ; a area before each hind angle transversally striated by smal, deep, parallel lines. The legs of moderate length, the tibiæ dilatated, the tarsi long; the elytra about in the middle deeply impressed; in this impression and near the inner side of the tubiform processus 'a protruding point with a yellow hair at the top.,

the humeral tube striated on the outer side. The propygidium and the pygidium with rugulous sculpture

Long. corp.	4 mm.
Lat. elytr.	2 mm.
Long. humeral. pencil.	2 mm.
Long. hind pencil.	1,5 mm.

This very peculiar beetle is apparently allied to BLACKBURN's shortly described *Chlamydopsis comata* BLACKB., that

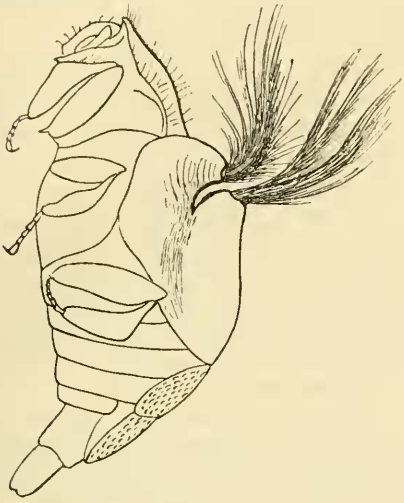

Fig. 2. *Eucurtia paradoxa* MJÖB. n. sp. Lateral view.

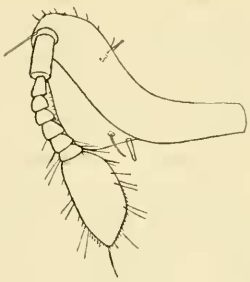

Fig. 3. Left antenna of *Eucurtia paradoxa* MJÖB. n. sp.

no doubt also will have to be placed in this new genus. It has also this long humeral pencil of hairs and »a lateral crest that project from each elytron».

Mr. BLACKBURN remarks, that he does not feel sure, whether his *Chlamydopsis sternalis* and *Chl. inæqualis* are to be regarded as members of that genus or as members of two allied genera, both distinct from the genus *Chlamydopsis* WESTW. For many reasons it seems me far better to place them in different and new genera. Not having any material of these two interesting species, I must leave the question about their systematic position to further observations.

It has been supposed that the species of the genera *Orectoscelis* and *Chlamydopsis,* due to their peculiar external organisation with short yellow hairs on the elytra live together with ants, or »to be parasitic on fossorial Hymenoptera». Mr. BLACKBURN found both his *Chl. sternalis* and *Chl. inæqualis* »on the top of rotten fence posts in which Hymenoptera were making their nests» in different years and different places.

There is nothing known about the life-history of *Eu. comata* BLACKB. The only information the author gives is: »a single species was found in a pool of water».

I found my new species in the colony of a termite (*Eutermes* sp., the species name will be recorded later on) under a stone near the root of a big eucalypt not far away from Williamstown in South Australia. The animal was quite surrounded by workers and soldiers. I kept it in captivity for some days together with the termites for making some observations. Apparently the hairs in the pencils are hollow and secrete a halffluid substance at the tips. Many times I noticed the termites gather round these pencils sucking or eating the secretion. On the living animal, these pencils are a little more protruding to the sides.

This is, I should say, the first real and true termitophilous beetle known from the australian continent. It is peculiar indeed, that so exceedingly few real termitophilous and myrmecophilous insects have been recorded from Australia, especially when we take in consideration how many new and interesting species there are known from both the other continents of the southern hemispher. Further investigations might increase the number.